Filling the gaps in the research information map: identifiers as coordinates

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Persistent identifiers (PIDs) act as coordinates for research information, They provide trusted, resolvable, machine-readable 'signposts' that enable resources and information to be located and linked. For the benefit of all concerned with research, it is vital that these crucial tools for understanding the contours of the scholarly commons are open, public, and accessible. We have community-led, open infrastructures for PIDs for people, data, publications - and soon for organizations as well - but what other resources should we be focusing on, and how can we map the connections and relationships between them?

This interactive session builds on exploratory work undertaken as part of the Horizon 2020 project THOR, discussions with publishers and identifier providers, and new research into PID use and adoption. We will set out a vision of what should be possible, compare this 'ideal world' vision with what is currently doable, and begin the process of prioritizing the next steps in the evolution of PIDs. This session will target the unnecessary gaps - those areas on the scholarly map where existing coordinates are not in use - and will be followed by discussions at PIDapalooza among PID experts as to how those gaps can be filled.

We will present a visual interpretation of the current PID landscape, highlighting opportunities to expand PID adoption and coverage. We will then open the discussion up to the audience, capturing their insights and suggestions by editing our map. This session - the first in a series of engagements between the wider scholarly community and the PID network - is a chance to collaboratively evolve and extend our collective mapping tools.